


Quid Novi



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MCGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW

MARCH 11, 1982

The perils of Malice

BY PEARL ELIADIS

Alice is young, blond and beautiful. Her dress is by Laura Ashley. There's a young man in the audience who loves Alice. But Alice is unhappy in spite of all this. She wants power. She wants to bring cities to their knees. Alice wants to be a bus driver? Nope. Alice, (poor misguided child) wants to be a lawyer. With the dubious aid of a lecherous mad hatter, Alice breaks through the looking glass to Wonderland, and thinks 23 impossible things before breakfast.

A slick, slick young lady named Joanie opened the show in a big way with that famous White Rabbit hit, "Go Ask Alice". But, since it is Alice doing the asking, the mad Hatter Q.C. takes the starry eyed Alice to spacey frontiers like the Faculty Zone, where professors like Professor Morissette are doomed to spend eternity walling "Am I boring you?" And let us not forget the starship Chancellor Day. Its four year mission to give two law

degrees to absolutely everyone who walks through the door. "Scotty, Scotty, we need power!" cries the captain. "Ah...ah... that would put us in warp ah... nine, ultra vires, Captain!" cries a dark haired man who doesn't appear to fit into his vest.

But things really get rolling with the Blues Brothers, slinking on stage in black suits and sunglasses, looking mean. But instead of totin' guns, it's toy horns they be carryin'. To the delight of a semi-hysterical audience, they belted out some golden oldies like "Do ya' Love Me" and Flip, Flop, Fly".

Alice really got an idea of what her future profs were like when the guys and gals of Wonderland put together the Professor Tapes. We heard that the Queen, the Supreme Court of Canada and the governor-generals of Canada don't want Prof. Crêpeau, but God might have something for him. Did you know that Prof. Scott's whole family sounds like him? Ah...ahhh...I didn't.

Then there was Blaine Baker's

School of Charm. What an uncanny resemblance in mannerisms between Blaine and Owen! But that's not the only place where Owen deserves credit. On stage wiggled nubile young Judy, and Owen kept his head while all men about him were losing theirs. A groovy gang of chicks and guys turned, spun and danced their way into our hearts with "Greased Lightning", the latest in off-Broadway choreography, and were followed by David and Richard of the C.D. News. All the news is that is was and will be news. The highlight of that skit was the weather. There will be dense fog in Prof. Scott's banking class. It will be cold in Prof. Macdonald's Jurisprudence class, but it could be hot, but, then again, it might not be. You just never know. In Prof. Cotler's Constitutional class, there will be light showers, especially in the front rows.

The S.A.O. Barbershop sextet warbled their way into The Friday Night Professors who rhymed the sad tale of Dangerous Dan and the lady they call Lu Lu.

(Continued page 8)

Constitutional blues

BY JOSEPH RIKHOFF

It took the LUS Council a marathon session to discuss the new constitution. Both Tuesday and Wednesday evening had to be used in order to give this document the attention that it deserved. The Council members agreed in general with the major changes which were proposed by the Structural Revision Committee, but they needed some more time to work out the details. The committee had proposed seven alterations to improve the present structure.

The Council was given more specific powers, all the members would be elected and the membership will decrease in number from 32 to 15. Those changes should enable the Council to act more efficiently than in the present structure. This proposal raised the question how the division of power would be organised within the Student Association. The concern was expressed that the student body could be run by 15 persons, but it was assured that this in practice would not happen. Moreover the new constitution has the safeguard that the General Assembly can overrule

any Council or Executive decision. Those safeguards are only meant for emergency situations, however. The members agreed with the committee that the function of the General Assembly should be changed, which was reflected by giving the Council the primary authority in daily matters, while the General Assembly will be convened at least five times a year for broad policy questions.

Another change proposed by the committee was the addition of another Vice-President for Uni-
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MAR 12 1982

Student merit award and course evaluations on the table

BY JOSEPH RIKHOF

The Faculty Council meeting discussed at its meeting of March 5th, Part III of the final report of the Curriculum Committee, a proposal for a Student merit Award and the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Course Evaluations.

Report of the Curriculum Committee

Most items in Part III did not give rise to long discussions, since they did not represent major changes in the curriculum. It was accepted that Property III would be removed as a prerequisite to Successions, that all prerequisites to Land Use Planning be suppressed and that Maritime Law I be removed as a prerequisite to Maritime Law II. It was also accepted that Taxation V or Corporate Taxation would be three instead of two credits. The next issue, the retitling of various courses, did not present many problems either. The Council members agreed that it was a sensible recommendation to replace courses which are now described by a name and number by names which are more revealing. The proposals for the Assistant Courses and Legal Aid Clinic were accepted including changes like the requirement that students should be in their third or fourth year.

After adoption of the committee's suggestion that all essays should have the same weight, namely three credits, the meeting moved into the only skirmish of the evening, the designation of obligatory and semi-obligatory courses.

The fact that Insurance was deleted from the civil law semi-obligatory list and Property III was added to the same list did not meet any objections; nor did the fact that Advanced Torts was added to the semi-obligatory list of common law courses.

The problem centered around the course Private International Law, which appeared in the committee's report as an obligatory national law course for the LLB degree. On one side arguments were given by Prof. Macdonald and Prof. Baker, who defended the compulsory character of this course, although the reasons why differed. Prof. Macdonald gave as reasons that this course was mandatory for students taking the civil law system or the national program. Moreover most

students in the LLB stream already had taken this course on a voluntary basis. Prof. Baker's argument was on a more ideological level. He was of the opinion that students in any federal legal system should have some understanding of conflicts of law, he pointed out that several universities in the USA and Canada have made this course obligatory even when no other courses were given the same status.

On the other hand we could find arguments which stressed the lack of practicality for a common law area (Prof. Durnford and Prof. Sklar) and the fact that students should be free to choose themselves courses which do not deal with basic concepts (Prof. Sklar and Ms. Vance).

Prof. Baker addressed himself to the argument of practicality. In his opinion, every case has a conflict of law question hidden within it, but this is not noticed in the law reports. Also, he didn't agree with the observation that common law is the same everywhere. "Compared to the law in Ontario, the law in the Yukon is as different as the law in Québec."

Mr. Stuart proposed a motion which would, as he announced, meet the objections of either side, this to the amazement of Council members. He moved that the PIL course would stay obligatory for the National Program, would remain semi-obligatory for the civil law program, and would become semi-obligatory for the civil law program. This motion was accepted without any problems, again to everybody's surprise.

The suggestion of the Committee to establish a committee to examine the teaching of evidence was accepted. The Curriculum Committee felt that because of the complexity of the matter involved, it could not make a recommendation without having sought advice first of the professor's involved.

The last motion accepted was the minimum writing requirement for all students. Students are now supposed to write at least one paper of moderate length, which can be done in different ways.

Student Merit Award

This award was proposed by Prof. Wade and it was made clear that

academic achievement was no criterion. Prof. Wade, in order to satisfy the concerns of other Council members expressed his preference for a medal or other small token, rather than a cash award, but could not give any details on that point.

The Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Course Evaluations

This report was proposed by Ms. Lamed, who pointed out that the objectives of the Ad Hoc Committee had been to shorten the questionnaire, to make questions more specific in their focus and to make the scale statistically accurate. The questionnaire is substantially reduced from 44 to 23 questions and the Faculty Council agreed on the fact that it was a sound piece of work and made only minor changes. The only question that caused a rather refreshing discussion was the use of the word "appalling" to describe a professor's ability to teach. Some professors did not like this strong term while others pointed out this term would be consistent in the range "appalling-poor-adequate-good-excellent". (Prof. Grey) The new questionnaire was accepted with the minor changes and the word "appalling".

*** COMING EVENTS ***

Friday, March 12

Job Opportunities in the Legal Profession. Me Yves Fortier.
1:00 p.m., Room 102.
Refreshments afterwards in the Common Room.

XVe Congrès Annuel du Club de Relations Internationales. Le patrimoine commun de l'humanité: illusion ou espoir de survie?
Université de Montréal. 19h30.

Saturday, March 13

1982 Bar Prize Moot. 1:30 p.m.
Moot Court Room.

Monday, March 15

Women's Basketball Finals.
6:00 p.m. Currie Gym.

Law in the Far North

BY DEMETRIOS G. XISTRIS

Imagine a community which pardons one of its citizens who was convicted of a rape offence and then asks the sentencing judge to lessen if not eliminate the sentence. This can't exist anywhere in Québec, right? Well, this was exactly what happened to Judge Couture in the far north who spoke to the law School last Wednesday.

As a result of the Territorial Division Act of 1975, which came into force in 1981 and which was based upon a 1972 report on Administration of Justice Beyond the 50th Parallel and the James Bay Conventions, most of Québec's northern area was put under one judicial district, that of an Itinerant court of Abitibi.

Judge Couture was the first Itinerant judge to serve in the far north in what he described as an attempt to provide "personalized justice to the Inuits." This was a result of an Inuit desire which was recognized during the James Bay negotiations. And as a result, the arrival of a court required the arrival of a police force which from its very nature brought about a rise in the crime rate since before no statistics had been kept.

Tuesday, March 16

Canadian Bar Association, McGill Branch. Practicing Labour Law in Quebec. Talk by two lawyers— one management, one union. Moot Court Room. 1:00 p.m. All CBA members urged to attend. All other interested persons welcome.

L.U.S. Council Meeting
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 17

General Assembly.
1:00 p.m. Moot Court.

Friday, March 19

The Notarial Profession in Quebec.
Me. Mackay. 1:00 p.m. Room 102.

Party - Quid Novi
Union Ballroom 8:00 p.m.

Judge Couture painted a very unconventional picture of the personalized justice which was transported to the far north. He recounted how sittings were held wherever possible, in rec halls, community centres, and when once he had to cancel a sitting because the heat was not working and the cold was unbearable. Since he was the only Justice working the circuit at first, the Inuits all had a sense of respect since there was consistency in who was pronouncing judgements. However, Judge Couture was not so fond of lawyers and the situation which revolved around them since after a few months on the job he realized that the same lawyers were hustling from town to town just as he was.

When Judge Couture got to the ethical and moral question of the Indian and the white man's law he interspersed anecdotes and philosophical ideas. His primary objective was not to be seen as "bringing to the far north the white man's law". He agreed that there is a certain amount of adapting which the law must undertake to suit the Indian and far north lifestyle. One in particular is the concept of time when it came to sentencing. Time, from the nature of community life and geographical location, seems to be seen as much stricter in the north than it would in Montréal. And as to the nature of crimes there is also a different perspective in the north. Rape is not as "criminal", that is it is not as serious as it is found to be in, for example, urban areas. Judge Couture said that he had to remain aware of these two elements, sentencing and the criminal perception, so as to be able to provide justice for the Inuit people.

However, on one point Judge Couture remained adamant that the law would not change and this was the criminal law as to crimes which would violate the basic principles of human life. As to these they would remain uniform and be governed by the code.

In all it was a very interesting discussion by a man who seems to enjoy his task and who seems to be willing to see justice as a means and not necessarily as an end. With this approach it seems very unlikely that the Indians in the far north will identify the law with the white man's way.

L'homme et la mer

La mer
vague houleuse
à la marée montante
attend de naître
dans l'iglou de neige (Illuvigaq).

L'homme (Inuk), lui,
fait la cueillette des oeufs.
Pikiuppuq.
Il est heureux!
Aiasuppuq!

Là, tout près de la mer,
la nuit,
il ne peut dormir (qissivug),
il attend (mippipug)
la naissance de l'enfant
(qiturngaq)
pendant que la marée descend
(tivippug).

La femme
et l'oiseau

L'oiseau couve
le sein d'une femme
sur l'herbe du rivage.

Oie des neiges (Kanguq)
elle languit
sans ardeur
allongée sur une peau de béluga
(mattaq)

L'oiseau se pose
près du goéland (naujaq)
et mange l'oeuf.

Il a le mal du pays.
Painngupug.

La femme, parasseuse,
attend que les glaces se brisent.
L'oiseau la traite avec précaution,
il se couche sur le côté,
sur l'os de sa hauche
attendant les vagues.

(poème inuit)*
*Published in Poetry Canada
Review, Vol. 2. No. 2,
Winter 1980-81.

NICOLE BOUDREAU LL.B.I

Reflections on first year moots

My Lords, this is an appeal from a decision of the McGill Moot Court, Criminal Division...and there are other grounds for appeal

That was the wild, crazy, madcap (not to say Skit-Nite-esque) thought which rushed through my mind as I rose to begin my first "for real" moot, early last week. In due deference however, I managed to suppress the irreverent impulse which had seized me, and proceeded to stumble ahead with my singularly awkward, if thoroughly orthodox, presentation.

"But," I asked myself several thoughtful evenings later, "was such unthinking deference truly called for?"

The New Webster Dictionary does not mince words in its qualification of the notorious mooting process. It defines the verb "to moot" as: "To bring forward for discussion, to make insignificant or theoretical".

Fancy that! One hundred and sixty-eight hours of work, two--hundred plus headnotes, a smorgasbord of digests, periodical indexes and unreported judgments (not to mention a sprained pinky from that last all-nighter at the Smith-Corona) all to be labelled "insignificant" by some American dictionary. Were this any other journal, the obvious question would be: is there any justice?

As a relative newcomer to the august halls of "Audi Alteram Partem", I have yet to acquire the jaded cynicism of Webster's Dictionary. But the past few weeks have left me with some nagging reservations about the moot.

My uneasiness began when I learned that an integral part of the exercise was to refer repeatedly to some joker I'd stood next to in the men's room the week before as "My Lord", for a solid half-hour.

The next pangs of uncertainty came when I heard about the topics being assigned. To label them merely salacious would be a flagrant error of omission. It seems as though the Junior Moot Court Board can only view constitutional law, family law, obligations and torts

in terms of prostitution, trans-exuality, drug addiction and death. If that is what two or three years in this law school will do to otherwise well-adjusted young adults, it is respectfully submitted that the upstart "Committee for the Preservation of Chancellor Day Hall" should seriously reconsider its priorities.

The whole language of the moot lends it a false, artificial objectivity. If you feel that, the trial judge singlehandedly established a strong case against judicial immunity with the reasoning he employed, and you've prepared an arsenal of 15 Supreme Court decisions with the hope of forever destroying the man's credibility as a rational, literate human, why bend over backwards to call him "learned" on every possible occasion, and to submit "with the greatest respect", that he made an ass of himself? Perhaps our learned professors feel that if we laid it on the line about judges, there's no telling who would be next.

The strong element of luck involved in the moot is also disconcerting. For example, (this part is serious) our Learned Friends and ourselves were the first ones to tackle our problem; our bench included the woman who wrote the problem, and fiery Law Representative to Council, Ted Claxton; we were in the Moot Court and to top things off, one of our Learned Friends was the debating champion of Canada! (And all this sandwiched between two 8:30 Obligations lectures.)

Of course the most controversial aspect of the moots is the pressure. With just seven days to prepare all your research, writing and typing (not to mention hiding, espionage and tearing), the tension can affect your entire personality. For days after handing in our factum, I went around humming the words "Let's get Criminal" to the tune of Olivia Newton-John's latest hit. I don't generally let pressure get to me. But if I've flunked Mooting I and have to repeat it next March, let's just say, I'm doing my research in that "great library in the sky."

RICK GOLDMAN

A JUST REWARD

Should the Faculty, in some manner, promote and encourage student participation in student activities?

After a thorough reading of section 10 of the Faculty Calendar, entitled Scholarships, Prizes and Loan Funds, I realized that although there are dozens of prizes to reward academic merit, none existed for those students who believe that law school is more than a "learning the law" experience. Some of us invest an enormous amount of our time in worthwhile initiatives such as the Bookstore, the Job Bank, the Legal Aid Clinic, the BSA, the LUS, the McGill Student Society, the Quid Novi, and so on. The question is, should we take all this for granted?

I submit that law school should be more than a learning institution, it should also encourage men and women to become socially involved and active in their milieu. One way to attain such a worthwhile objective, is to recognise the great value of student participation in university activities by awarding prizes to those people who distinguish themselves by working for their community.

As a member of the Scholarships Committee, I have worked toward the creation of an award to further these objectives. This project was welcomed in Student Council and Faculty Council, and both instances voted in favour of it. This award will be given to 1 to 10 deserving students. This year the money will come from the Faculty and the L.U.S., but in the future, it will be financed by the Graduate's Society. The award will be of nominal value and the winner's names will be engraved on a plaque to be displayed in the entrance hall. Furthermore, efforts will be made to have notice of the award appear on the winner's transcripts. Candidates may be nominated or may nominate themselves and forms are now available at SAO. The applications will be evaluated by a committee composed of the Class Presidents and the members of the Faculty Scholarships Committee. Interviews will be held if necessary. Needless to say, the Evaluation Committee will not take into consideration the candidate's respective academic records. The deadline for applications is Thursday, March 18th. Hurry!

STEPHAN LEGOUEFF
SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE

NOUS SOMMES RICHES SOYONS SOLIDAIRES

Jacques Nadeau, préparant ses états financiers, m'a dit: "Nous sommes riches. Nous avons \$8,000 de surplus." J'ai trouvé que c'était un peu indécent de nous dire riches en nous tapotant le ventre. Nous sommes étudiants en droit, appelés, donc, pour la majorité, à faire bientôt un salaire supérieur à la moyenne. Nous vivons de plus dans un coin privilégié du monde, le Québec, le Canada. Je me suis dit que nous devrions peut-être essayer de faire partager un peu notre richesse avec ceux qui ont moins que nous. Ne devrions-nous pas, de ce surplus, faire une contribution à un organisme humanitaire qui saura l'employer au mieux. Un geste de solidarité.

Il ne s'agit pas de donner les \$8,000 dont nous disposons. "Charité bien ordonnée commence par soi-même." Nous avons des besoins et nous devons prévoir ceux qui pourront surgir à l'avenir. De plus, cet argent a été fourni en majeure partie par nos prédécesseurs étudiants et par nous même pour servir les objectifs du LUS. Nous ne pouvons détourner cet argent ni même une grande partie de celui-ci des objectifs aux fins desquels il a été versé. Mais peut-être pouvons-nous poser un geste de solidarité à titre collectif, conscients que nous sommes des difficultés que d'autres éprouvent et qui nous sont épargnées. J'ai pensé que 10% de ce montant serait raisonnable: \$800, c'est-à-dire un peu plus de \$1 par étudiant(e). Ce qui compterait surtout, ce serait d'affirmer notre volonté collective que le LUS dorénavant consacre 10% de ses surplus annuels à une telle cause, que ce geste ne soit pas isolé mais bien au contraire soit la manifestation d'une solidarité active et continue.

Pour ce qui est de l'objectif, de l'institution à qui nous proposerions cette contribution, il y a plusieurs possibilités. Les deux principales: Centaide et Oxfam. Personnellement, je pencherais plutôt pour Oxfam dont l'aide humanitaire répond à des besoins humains vitaux. Mais ce n'est là qu'une opinion parmi d'autres possibles.

Je me propose de déposer ce projet à l'assemblée du LUS Council, mardi le 16 mars prochain. En cas d'approbation, il vous sera soumis à l'assemblée générale du lendemain.

Je ne pense pas, pour conclure, qu'il soit simplement question de se donner bonne conscience. Ce geste aura certainement des effets

bénéfiques quelque part et ce devrait être un motif suffisant pour le poser. Nous sommes riches. Soyons solidaires. Partageons.

FRANCOIS CREPEAU LLB IV

LUS ELECTIONS APPROACH

On March 24th students will elect a new executive to the Law Undergraduate Society. Generally speaking, the executive manages the day to day affairs and elaborates the general policies of the LUS. The president, secretary and treasurer are elected by all members of the student body. The vice-president (Civil Law) is elected exclusively by Civil Law students and the vice-president (Common Law) exclusively by Common Law Students. Degree status is fixed in first year. Besides the members of the executive, students will elect their representative on Faculty Council. Also, according to the present constitution, students are called upon to elect the social coordinator. However, a proposed new constitution will be voted upon in the referendum next Wednesday, March 17th; should it be accepted by a majority of students, the social coordinator would henceforth be appointed by the executive. Students interested in this position should submit their nomination papers; if the proposal is rejected, then these papers will go to determining the list of candidates for the post of social coordinator from which students will choose in voting on March 24th.

The rules and regulations regarding these elections are set out in Appendix A of the LUS Constitution. They will be posted on the LUS noticeboard in the basement (near the entrance to the cafeteria). Nominations will open on Monday, March 15 and close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 18. All nominations must contain the words, we the undersigned nominate _____, for the position of _____, for the year 1982-83 academic year." The papers must be signed by twenty students eligible to vote for the position in question. The signed nominations should be submitted to SAO.

Furthermore, we desperately need volunteers to supervise the balloting, not only for the elections on March 24th, but also for the referendum on March 17th. If you can help, please leave your name, phone number, and a description of your availability on Wednesdays in the Chief Returning Officer's box in the LUS office.

BRIAN MCDONOUGH LLB IV

1982 BAR PRIZE MOOT

On Saturday March 13, 1982, at 1:30 p.m., the Faculty of Law presents the 1982 Bar Prize Moot (formerly the Quebec Bar Prize) to be held in the Moot Court Room. This event should be of special interest to all first year students who have recently completed their first year moots for they will see how three actual judges preside over an appeal.

The problem is in the area of Corporate Law specifically dealing with sale of control and it will be argued by four students from this faculty:

Counsel for the Appellants:
Jerome Bartlett, Chris Logan
Counsel for the Respondent:
Gary Littlejohn, Ron Lucciola

The winners, to be chosen by the moot judges, the Honourable Mr. Justice Gerald Le Dain of the Federal Court of Appeal, the Honourable Mr. Justice Gerald McCarthy of the Quebec Court of Appeal, and the Honourable Mr. Justice Perry Meyer of the Quebec Superior Court, will receive the Annual Moot Court Competition Cup, \$200 prize money provided by the Bar of Montreal, and \$100 provided by the Bar of Quebec.

One interesting point about this year's bench is the fact that each member was the winner of the Elizabeth Torrence Gold Medal, awarded for the highest standing in his year of graduation for the Faculty of Law.

This is one event not to be missed!

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O/N WILL BE SELLING THE
DISTINGUISHED
"McGill LAW" SHIRT
THIS WEEK.

THESE ARE A LIMITED
EDITION COLLECTOR'S
ITEM, SO DON'T MISS
THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY

ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN AT
LUNCHTIME IN THE BASE-
MENT; OR CONTACT
RON LUCCIOLA OR
GARY LITTLEJOHN.

Turn it Up!

BY DANIEL CHONCHOL

This brief look at five relatively new releases isn't intended as a consumer guide (though it wouldn't be hard to use it as one: all you have to do is spot my prejudices, compare them to yours, and make your purchasing decision accordingly) but rather as an overview of current mainstream rock 'n' roll. The records discussed were thought to be responsive of the mainstream. The good news is that all these discs feature intelligent and highly listenable and/or danceable music. The bad news is that none of them is particularly adventurous. Each of these artists is working in a tried and true style established by the artist himself or by a predecessor. Obviously there's nothing wrong with having a style, even if it's not an original one; but when an artist starts running out of ideas, a "style" can easily become a straight-jacket and his music can turn formulaic. The Rolling Stones, for example, are currently facing this problem, and Bruce Springsteen may fall prey to it in the near future.

But that's a reservation that shouldn't compromise the enjoyment one can get out of these albums. One would therefore be advised to simply throw these records on the turntable and heed Van Morrison's counsel: "Turn it up!"

The Go-Go's: Beauty and the Beat

The anthemic first song of the album's second side proudly proclaims, "We got the beat!" and the Go-Go's do indeed have the beat. This all female aggregation from Los Angeles has come up with a debut album of bouncy, infectious tunes which positively compel you to dance, or at least to hum along and tap your toes.

The fact that the band is made up of women has inevitably led to their being compared with the "girl groups" of the early sixties, but the similarities do not really go beyond identity of gender. True, the Go-Go's rhythm and emphasis on harmony vocals are firmly rooted in early and mid-sixties pop, but they eschew the "wall of sound" approach favoured by the girl group producers. The sound here is spare, with the playing rather rudimentary. The record in fact resembles the early Blondie albums, which might not be a coincidence since one of the co-producers here,

Richard Gottehrer, has produced Blondie.

The band also lacks the (somewhat contrived) innocence of the early female outfits. Although the pursuit of The Boy is still important (listen to "How Much More", for instance), these women don't try to pass themselves off as ingenues. "This Town", for example, is a sardonic putdown of L.A.'s "glamour"; and the lead singer confesses in "Lust to Love" that "I did it all for thrills". And even the more traditional romantic epics seem, on closer inspection, to be tongue-in-cheek.

Most of the songs on this album sound the same, but that doesn't really matter since they're for the most part irresistibly catchy.

Van Morrison: Beautiful Vision

Beautiful Vision doesn't sound all that different from any of the last five or so Van Morrison albums. The familiar elements are all there: the spirituality; the evocation of the singer's Celtic heritage; the odes to pastoral bliss; the images of light, darkness, fire and water; the lilting folk-based sound; the muted horns; and (last and least) the soulless female backing vocals. Many songs on this record fail because Morrison does not manage to rise above these standard ingredients. But the album's successes are transcendent enough to rank with his best work; and so Beautiful Vision isn't a total loss.

Take "Celtic Ray" for example. Morrison sings, as he often has, of a yearning for his homeland ("I've been away too long"); nothing new there. Nor is there anything new in the rather bland instrumental backing (gone forever, it seems is the electrifying soul of a song like "Jackie Wilson Said"). But Morrison injects the tune with such passion and sincerity that it is transformed into a thing of almost heart-wrenching beauty. The same goes for "Northern Muse" and "Across the Bridge Where Angels Dwell".

Passion is not, of course, the only thing Van Morrison has going for him. He remains a technically superb singer, still performing his patented vocal contortions. But one wonders how long he can continue to overcome material which lyrically, is banal and too often

weighed down with mystico-religious platitudes, and musically, while pretty, is rather rambling and formless.

The J Geils Band: Freeze Frame

The critical hype is heralding this as Geils' "breakthrough" album, but the only breakthrough here is commercial. The group has simply taken its solid rhythm and blues foundation and added touches of new wave (the organ in "Freeze Frame"); African rhythms ("River Blindness"); latin-tinged urban soul ("Angel in Blue"); rockabilly ("Piss on the Wall", especially the sax solo) etcetera. It's hard to say whether the record's success is due to these "changes" or to the public's long overdue realization that Geils at their best can rock with anyone.

The album's highlights are in the frenzied boogie mold that this band is a master of; "Centerfold"; "Freeze Frame"; and "Piss on the Wall". Geils unfortunately lacks the sophistication to pull off more ambitious tracks such as "Insane, Insane Again".

The great Geils songs are great for the usual reasons: Peter Wolf's energetic singing, Magic Dick's incendiary harp playing (in that respect, "Flamethrower" is aptly named) and the drive of the rhythm section. The group's main weakness remains Seth Justman's wordy and pedantic lyrics.

One doubts, however, that anybody listening to punchy rockers like "Centerfold" or "Freeze Frame" will pay much attention to the words.

Marianne Faithfull: Dangerous Acquaintances

This is the second album in the "comeback" phase of Marianne Faithfull's career, and it's quite different from the first. Whereas Broken English was a painful attempt to exorcise the singer's demons, Dangerous Acquaintances is her affirmation that, though the demons are still there, they're not going to stop her from living. Because of its relatively upbeat tone, the new record initially strikes one as being bland in comparison to its predecessor. But more attentive listening reveals a disc that is actually quite strong.

Typical of the new album's mood is the opening song "Sweetheart",

which is Faithfull's declaration of independence: "I ain't sacrificin' what I hold is true/ I ain't sacrificin' sweetheart even for you". The song is ushered in by horns and is in a bright, light pop vein. Quite a contrast from the brooding "Broken English", which opened the first disc. Other similar songs are "Tenderness", with its handclaps and catchy refrain, and "Easy in the City". The music is generally more melodic and less harsh than on Broken English.

The lyrics, the principal subjects matter of which is again the relationships between the sexes, have also been toned down. There is nothing here that is as scathing as "Why D'ya do it?", as bitter as the cover of "Working Class Hero", as anguished as "Guilt" (the only exception being "Truth Bitter Truth", a lament for lost innocence which closes the album). Nonetheless there is no shortage of perceptive, and sometimes biting lines, for example: "Our love was meant to trap them (men)/ and then they find some poison of their own" ("Eye Communication").

Faithfull's singing is also gentler, but it has lost none of its power. Her voice is still very expressive and wonderfully raspy, and its interplay with the smooth, synthesiser-dominated backing of her band creates an excellent effect. Unfortunately this effect is sometimes compromised by the intrusion of horns (there weren't any on the last album). Admittedly, though, the horns do work well on some tracks, "Sweetheart" and "Tenderness" for example.

All in all then, though the album flirts dangerously with "mellowness", it is a worthy successor to Broken English.

The Police: Ghost in the Machine

This album is, in a word, addictive. The Police have got their sound (a distinctive blend of funk, reggae and synthesiser pop) down pat, and they manipulate its elements with great self-assuredness. The music is streamlined and the songs push relentlessly ahead, propelled by Stewart Copeland's crisp drumming and Sting's braying horns. Very, very catchy.

The group has also reached a level of lyrical sophistication which approaches its musical savoir faire. Sting addresses himself to a number of weighty matters: disillusionment with politics ("Spirits in the Material World"), war ("Invisible Sun"), the hypocrisy of the "North-South Dialogue" ("One World"), media overkill ("Too Much

Information") and the way in which our modern society breeds hatred and violence ("Rehumanize Yourself"). The ideas are not always fully fleshed out, but the band at least deserves high marks for good intentions.

Most importantly, this record should dispel claims that the group's music is "sterile", "cold", and "unemotional". True, Sting's singing is somewhat mechanical, but the playing is vital, energetic and (even on some of the more pessimistic songs) joyous enough to show clearly that the Police have a heart. It's technology with human face, so to speak.

(Author's Note: Records provided by kind courtesy of Radio McGill)

LAW JOURNAL INFO SESSION
1st + 2nd year Students - interested in working for it? - Common Room
at 1:00, MONDAY MARCH 22nd

SPORTS NOTES

It is requested that all those who participated in the FROSTBITE MARATHON complete the collection of pledges by March 19th, so that this year's fund raising campaign may be finalized. Please leave your pledge in the S.A.O. if you are unable to contact your pledgee.

Voting for ATHLETE OF THE YEAR is presently taking place. If you have played on any law school team, whether intramural or interfaculty, you are entitled to one vote. The criteria are threefold:

- 1) participation on Faculty teams.
- 2) participation in events related to sports at the Faculty
- 3) spirit and sportsmanship

Your ballot may be left with your team captain or in the Sports Box at the L.U.S. no later than March 12. Each ballot must bear the voter's name to ensure that participants vote only once.

A reminder that Play-Offs have begun for the Law Faculty Intramural Teams. Keep your eyes open for the date and time so that you can come out and support your second favorite team (after the Habs of course!)

(Continued from page 1)

versity Affairs. This person would coordinate all the activities in which law students are involved on campus and would also maintain relations with the other faculties and student societies on campus.

This improvement had the agreement of the Council members, and likewise the next alteration, the insertion of a changeover provision. This proposal was meant to make the transition from old to new executives easier by making the attendance of the first meetings after election but before taking office by new executives mandatory.

The next change which raised some discussion was the position of the semi-autonomous bodies or Standing Service Committees (Sports Committee, Social Committee, Quid Novi, Job Bank, and Bookstore). The Council can reverse decisions taken by those bodies by 2/3 majority only and only on the basis of the constitution which is drawn up by the Standing Service Committee themselves, and added as an appendix to the LUS constitution. The constitutions of most semi-autonomous bodies consisted only of the objectives of the organizations, but the representative of Quid Novi proposed additional guarantees to protect Quid Novi from undue interference. In his proposal the Council could only interfere when the editors of Quid Novi had abused funds, failed to publish, or refused to publish student notices.

In the future a speaker will lead the General Assembly, not the president of the LUS. It was felt, especially by the President himself, that it would be more efficient when the president is not occupied with the running of the meeting.

Lastly, the treasurer is given more responsibility, and during the Council meeting an amendment was added to ensure that an independent audit would be conducted.

After discussing the constitution section by section it was decided that the Council members would vote on the main motion a week later. Then a new stage in the LSA (the Law Student Association of McGill University or L'Association des Etudiants en Droit De L'Université McGill -- AED) will be reached.

After this long discussion a motion regarding the Regalado action was passed. The LUS council decided that a letter could be sent by the organizers of the petition to other law schools on behalf of the LUS Council to ask to circulate the same petition in those schools.

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But for zingers (and I mean zingers), Peter and Barbara really came through in the Second Annual Professorial Awards. Margot Somerville was nominated for "ANY Lieutenant's Woman", Julius Grey for "The Jerk", Stephan Scott for "Tory, Tory, Tory" and Rod Macdonald for "Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde".

Opening the 2nd half of the show was Arnie and his smash hit "Dogs in the Yard". You'd be singing that dingy ditty too if you couldn't even go crazy in peace anymore. Poor Arnie was carried away by those nice Blues Brothers boys, but the audience was brave for him. With good reason, for the second half also saw the long-awaited comeback of John and Neil, taking off and hosing their way to legal stardom on the McGill Law Journal as they tried to get their article on Back Bacon published. Is back bacon a better topic than the ins and outs of tenure, Prof. Grey? We'll leave that decision to posterity for safekeeping.

The second half of the show may well have been started by two winners, but the finicky crowd only began to really warm up to the lyrical guitar of Stephan Le Goueff, singing his heart out for the "McGill-ien" francophones about the trials and tribulations of law school.

Quest for Fire met its match with "2001: A Tax Audit", as six Cro-Magnon lovelies beat an unsuspecting tax text to death. (It was only to resurface in history in 1971 A.D.)

"YOU HAD IT EASY. WHY? WHEN I WENT TO LAW SCHOOL WE HAD TO GET UP TWO HOURS BEFORE WE WENT TO BED! BEAT OFF PACKS OF WOLVES..." and so on and so on, to higher and higher decibel levels (not to mention doubled-up-in-laughter-levels) as the members of the Daft Civil Code let us in on Law School as it was way back when. As if the audience didn't have a hard enough time mentally juggling the screaming arguments of the Draft's honourable members, they had to watch two acrobatic gentlemen hoola-hooping and juggling their way across the stage to a disco beat. We watched in stunned awe as one-handed juggling, four-ball juggling and simultaneous bumps and grinds happened before our very eyes.

On a musical note, Bruce Fitzimmons had the girls screaming and the boys stomping with his two pieces, one by Albeniz and a catchy Cockburn tune. The audience tried to get him to come back for an encore,

but it was a no go. We'll get you next year, Bruce.

"But don't think twice, it's Law School", rasped Gerry (but I was SURE it was Bob). Actually, Dylan may have religion, but as long as we have guitar pluckin', harmonica wallin' singers like Mr. Cuttler, who needs to think twice?

And finally, FINALLY, "Jane Glenn, Crimefighter" came in on the right cue in the right room, at the right time. Swinging and boogying to the Crimefighter beat, she recanted a poetic ode to her fearsome reputation.

Well, Alice knows better than to go to Law School Now. She knows that the professors have but marginal contact with reality. She knows that she'll be marked by the toss of a coin. She knows that the Mad Hatter Q.C. isn't even a lawyer. Alice might just stay a little girl...

This year's Skit Nite set an impressive precedent. A big thank-you is certainly in order for everyone who helped out, and the ovation goes out to David Hirsch and Richard Kurland for their superhuman success in directing what has been unanimously considered as the best Skit Nite ever.

JANE GLENN, CRIMEFIGHTER

When Evil spreads across our land
And terror strikes the heart,
And hope grows dim for life and limb
And any other part,
Just call for me and you will see
That tho' I may be slighter,
No Force on earth stand in the way
of
ME, JANE GLENN, CRIMEFIGHTER.

Now you may think that I'm too small
To even hurt a flea,
But criminals know better now,
Just speak to my trustee;
He tried to sell my life estate,
I thought that he was brighter,
His leg was broke in one swift kick
from
ME, JANE GLENN, CRIMEFIGHTER.

Now you think I like Trusts and Gifts
And 1A Property,
But I don't care about that stuff,
My notes are from H.P.;
My colleagues think I'm talented
The Dean thinks I'm a writer, but
Professor's just an alias for
ME, JANE GLENN, CRIMEFIGHTER.

So when you pass me in the halls
I want to see respect;
Don't think, "It's only plain Jane Glenn"
That wouldn't be correct;
Don't say, "Hello Professor Glenn!"
Why nothing could be triter,
Get down on bended knee and say:
HAIL! JANE GLENN, CRIMEFIGHTER!!!

NATIVE PEOPLES AND THE LAW

At a recent Faculty Council meeting an optional 3 credit course was approved in principle. The course description reads as follows:

This course will examine current legal topics pertaining with native peoples and their lands. The first part of the course will trace the development of the concept of aboriginal title and its evolution toward contemporary systems, including a discussion of constitutional aspects of unceded lands, "lands reserved for Indians" and resources. Finally, possible legal innovations arising from contemporary land claims will be examined in the light of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

The second part of the course will examine a number of selected aspects of the law relating to Canadian Native Peoples, in areas such as constitutional status of native people, hunting and fishing rights, consti-

tutional reform, and revision of the Indian Act

The course awaits approval by Senate but is even more in need of some indication of the number of students who would be interested in, and committed in, taking the course should it be offered during the 1982-83 academic year.

It is a point of considerable concern that at present there is not a single Faculty of Law in the Province that offers a course on Native Law. Given the existence of the National Program, it is unthinkable that McGill not lead the way in opening up this field of studies considering the developments which have taken place in Quebec.

If you are sincerely interested in taking the course (should it be offered), please sign the list posted near the Quid Novi office which will be incorporated into a letter to the Dean.

DAVID HOWES